

## Message Text

SECRET

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64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 047735

R 041500Z FEB 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8494  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1143

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, LE  
SUBJECT: GALLAGHER/DYKES KIDNAPPING

1. ALGERIAN CHARGE CAME IN TO TELL ME TODAY THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH PFLP REPRESENTATIVES AND THEY SAID THEY HAD NO INFORMATION ON WHEREABOUTS OF GALLAGHER AND DYKES. HE PROBED BY SAYING HE KNEW FATAH AND SAIQA DID NOT HAVE THE MEN AND WONDERED WHO MIGHT BE. THEY SUGGESTED PERHAPS A SMALL LEBANESE LEFTIST ORGANIZATION. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY ALGERIAN SAID HE THOUGHT THESE PEOPLE WERE VERY WELL AWARE OF THE MATTER AND PROBABLY HAD THE MEN UNDER CONTROL. HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THEY WERE NOT BEING FRANK WITH HIM SINCE HE IS NEW HERE AND CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION WAS NOT OVERLY FRIENDLY.

2. TWO DAYS AGO ECONOMIC COUNSELOR CONTACTED GOVERNOR OF CENTRAL BANK ELIAS SARKIS, WHO DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN THE CASE AND SAID HE WOULD MAKE HIS OWN INQUIRIES. HE IMPLIED HE MIGHT GO TO KARAME, FRANGIE/OR THE SYRIANS.

3. KARAME INTIMATE MOHSEN SLIM AGAIN MADE CONTACT AT ECONOMIC COUNSELOR'S REQUEST WITH KARAME FEB 2. HE PROBED TO SEE WHAT KARAME WAS DOING ABOUT THE CASE BUT

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MET WITH KARAME'S FAMOUS GREAT STONE FACE. FROM ATMOS-

PHERICS IT SEEMED AS IF KARAME HAD NOT DONE ANYTHING YET  
BUT HE AGAIN PROMISED TO GIVE IT IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

4. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT I RASISED THE CASE WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER TAQLA WHEN I SAW  
HIM FEB 3. TAQLA PROMISED TO ATTEND TO MATTER THE NEXT  
DAY.

5. WE ARE CONTINUING THIS SHOTGUN APPROACH IN ORDER NOT TO  
OVERLOOK ANY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES AS WE ARE NOT  
SURE WHO MAY BE THE STUMBLING BLOCKS WITHIN GOL. WITH  
RETURN OF NORMALCY, HOWEVER, I AM INCREASINGLY CONVINCED  
MAIN THRUST HAS TO BE MADE WITH THE GOL AT HIGHEST LEVEL,  
AND FORMALLY AS WELL AS INFORMALLY. THIS WOULD INCLUDE  
TRYING TO GET AS MUCH HELP AS POSSIBLE FROM THE  
SYRIANS. I AM THEREFORE ONLY WAITING FOR FRANGIE TO  
COMPLETE HIS TRIP TO DAMASCUS AND ANNOUNCE BASIC  
AGREEMENT BEFORE I GO TO SEE HIM AND PRIME MINISTER  
KARAME TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER IN CONTEXT OF CONGRATULATING  
THEM BOTH ON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE AGREEMENT.  
WE ARE HOPING MEANWHILE TO KEEP KARAME AND  
ELEMENTS OF THE GOL THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO FRANGIE (SURETE GENERAL AND  
THE ARMY) FOCUSED ON THIS MATTER IN THE HOPE THAT THEY CAN  
MOVE THE HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE TO TAKE SOME ACTION AS TO  
RELEASE. WHETHER FICTION OR REALITY, PFLP STORY THAT  
THE MEN ARE HELD BY A LEBANESE GROUP SHOULD HELP IN THIS  
APPROACH, SINCE IT MAKES LEBANESE AUTHORITIES LESS ABLE  
TO PLEAD HELPLESSNESS IN GETTING THE MEN FREED.

6. IN ALL THESE APPROACHES WE HVE BEEN SUGGESTING MORE  
AND MORE OPENLY THAT TIME FOR SILENCE ON OUR PART IS  
RUNNING OUT AND STORY IS LIKELY TO BE APPEARING IN THE  
PRESS IN NOT VERY DISTANT FUTURE IF MEN'S SAFE RELEASE DOES  
NOT DEVELOP. THIS IS NOT A PROPOSAL WE WISH TO PUT TO  
THE DEPARMMENT FOR ACTION YET.

7. FINALLY, WE WONDER IF DAMASCUS COULD OBTAIN SOME  
FEEDBACK FROM GENERAL SHEHABI ON THE MATTER AND WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT  
BE APPROPRIATE THAT DEPARTMENT AT HIGH LEVEL (PERHAPS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON) FEED REQUEST TO SYRIAN  
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EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AS WELL. IT IS AFTER ALL THE  
SYRIAN MUSCLE WITHIN AND BEYOND THE HIGHER MILITARY  
COMMITTEE WHICH IS THE MAIN LEVER LEBANESE WOULD HAVE  
FOR OBTAINING THE MEN'S RELEASE. THIS MUSCLE WILL DECREASE  
AS TIME GOES BY. WE WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S AND DAMASCUS'  
REACTIONS.  
LAMBRAKIS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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